

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of claims is presented below with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for treating asthma comprising:

administering to a subject having asthma an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory motif comprising a 5'-cytosine-guanine-3', wherein the cytosine of the 5'-cytosine-guanine-3' is unmethylated, wherein the oligonucleotide has a length of 8 to 100 nucleotides, wherein at least one internucleotide linkage in the oligonucleotide has a phosphate backbone modification, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered without an allergen and wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered in an amount effective to treat asthma.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject is selected from the group consisting of human, dog, cat, horse, and cow.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises a CG flanked by two 5' purines and two 3' pyrimidines.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises more than one CG dinucleotide.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises AACGCTCG.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises the sequence 5'-AACGTT-3'.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of AGCGTC, GACGTT, GACGTC, AACGTT, and AGCGTT.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising:

X₁X₂CG X₃X₄

wherein X₁X₂ is selected from the group consisting of GpG, GpA, and ApA, and X₃X₄ is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the immunostimulatory motif comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising:

X₁CG X₂

wherein X₁ is selected from the group consisting of G and A, and X₂ is selected from the group consisting of T and C.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered by injection.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to skin by transdermal route.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered by a route that allows the oligonucleotide to be taken up by the appropriate target cells.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the target cells are in the airway of the subject.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is linked to a molecule.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the molecule is a targeting moiety.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the molecule interacts with a target cell surface.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is linked to a target cell specific binding agent.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising administering an immunotherapeutic agent.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein eosinophil accumulation in lung tissue is reduced.
38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein inflammation is prevented.
39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject is a human.